



New York District Office

News Release

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Downtown Manhattan's Drum Associates Wins Small Business of the Year 2005

***New York's Best and Brightest Small Businesses and
Small Business Advocates Honored by the Federal Government
at Ceremony Today***

New York, NY--- The New York District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration today presented awards to eight outstanding New York small business owners and small business advocates as part of the celebration of ***National Small Business Week 2005***.

Small Business of the Year Award winner, Brian Drum, owner of Drum Associates, was recognized for, among other accomplishments, his successful determination to keep his business running and all 32 Drum employees on payroll following the collapse of the World Trade Center towers.

Over 200 business leaders and economic development officials attended the awards ceremony at 26 Federal Plaza. The awards program featured SBA regional administrator William Manger and New York City commissioner for small business services, Robert Walsh. Jose Sifontes, District Director of the SBA's New York District Office presided over the event and presented the following awards:

Small Business Person of the Year

**Brian Drum
Drum Associates, Inc.
New York, NY**

Family-Owned Small Business of the Year

**Yun Ho Kim and Kyung H. Kim
J & A U. S. A., Inc.
Edgewood, NY**

Financial Services Champion of the Year

**Awilda Velez
AV Financial Consulting Services
Bronx, NY**

Women in Business Champion of the Year

**Lisa J. Dolan
Securit
Flushing, NY**

Minority Small Business Champion of the Year

**Myrna Franceschis
Monteli Travel, Inc.
Brooklyn, NY**

Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year

**Lee Covino
Office of the Borough President
Staten Island, NY**

Home-Based Business Champion of the Year

**Mary Ann and Michael Arroyo
Sunshine & Dreams, Inc.
Malverne, NY**

Small Business Journalist of the Year

**Victoria Schneps
Schneps Communications, Inc.
Bayside, NY**

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